

COMMENDING THE TROOPS AT U.S.
NAVAL BASE GUANTANAMO BAY

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the patriotism of 100 of my fellow Rhode Islanders, who are members of the 43rd Military Police Brigade of the Rhode Island Army National Guard. As I speak, these fine men and women are deployed to U.S. Naval Base Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, where they are part of Joint Task Force-160. The mission of Joint Task Force-160 is to oversee the care, custody and control of the detainees who have been apprehended by United States and international forces in the global war on terrorism. The 43rd Military Police Brigade is serving as the core staff and headquarters for the entire Joint Task Force, as well as providing critical security requirements for Camp Delta, where the detainees are being held. Additionally, they support the efforts of Joint Task Force-170, which includes both the FBI and the CfA, who are handling interrogation of the detainees. In deploying to Guantanamo Bay, they have been reunited with their commander and fellow Rhode Island Guardsman, Brigadier General Rick Backus, who became the Task Force Commander in March of this year.

U.S. Naval Base Guantanamo Bay is over 45 square miles and is not only the oldest U.S. base overseas but it is also the only one in a Communist country. It is located on the southeast corner of Cuba, and is about 400 air miles from Miami, Florida. For these Guard members it is home because it is where their country needs them to be. They are an integral part of the 1,700 members of Joint Task Force-160, made up of servicemen and women from the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard, and they are all unsung heroes of the war on terrorism.

The 43rd Military Police is a mobilized National Guard unit from my hometown of Warwick, Rhode Island. They recently made history when, on May 20, 2002, they became the first National Guard unit to assume the role of a joint task force command. Clearly this demonstrates the ability of the National Guard to seamlessly transition into an active duty command. This complete integration of a National Guard Unit into a Joint Task Force is a tribute to both the National Guard Bureau and the U.S. Army.

A member of my staff recently had the privilege of visiting these Guard members at Guantanamo. He told me that it was impossible not to be struck by the professionalism and dedication of these men and women. Their morale is excellent, despite the incredibly stressful task they have. They make every daily decision, which affects the lives of 1,700 troops and 564 detainees, and they are our next-door neighbors. They are accomplishing something they have constantly prepared for but never imagined would become reality in this way. They have been assigned an awesome challenge and have risen to the occasion.

In recognizing these members of the Rhode Island National Guard, I also want to acknowledge the outstanding support that they receive from their families and their employers. Most of these Guard members are traditional mem-

bers, or "weekend warriors", as they are often known. Many are self-employed or hold critical positions in their companies. The extremely unique demand of this war on terrorism is a duty that is shared by employers and employees alike. Many Guard members expect to be away from their families and jobs for four months, which could impose a significant financial and psychological burden on members at a time when they need to be functioning at 100 percent. The support they receive is critical to the success of their mission.

I am proud as an American and a Rhode Islander to recognize this partnership in patriotism displayed by the guardsmen of the 43rd Military Police Brigade, their families and their employers in their deployment as part of Joint Task Force 160.

LEAP AWARD WINNERS IN
ORANGE COUNTY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, Today I rise to honor Chongge Vang and Debbie Barba for their leadership and dedication to the Asian community of Orange County.

Debbie, a third generation Japanese-American, worked her way up from telephone operator to Vice President of Local Operations for Pacific Bell. During her tenure, she provided a wonderful example to others in our community by returning to school and working to obtain her undergraduate degree from the University of Redlands.

Chongge Vang fled Laos in the late 1970's after fighting alongside the American CIA in a secret war. Since his arrival in Orange County, he has helped countless members of the Hmong community to become U.S. citizens and receive health care and other social-service support.

A modest man, Vang considers himself more of a helper than a leader. He stated that he became a leader only because others did not answer the call.

The Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics organization has recognized these two leaders. I would like to personally thank them for their hard work and the positive example they set for others in my district.

KEEPING CANADIAN TRASH OUT
OF MICHIGAN

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, our state is a cathedral—not a dumping ground for Canadian trash.

For nearly 30 years, those of us in Michigan have taken responsibility for our own trash.

In the early 1970s, I worked with my colleagues in the State Legislature and the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) to make Michigan the first industrial state in the nation to enact a bottle bill.

Michigan families wait in line to return their bottles and cans, meanwhile people in Can-

ada and other states throw them in the garbage and truck them into our state. It is long past time to enact a ban on imported trash.

I introduced the first bill to allow local communities the ability to say "no" to out-of-state and Canadian trash in 1989 and passed it through the House in 1994—only to have Republicans block it in the Senate.

Today, Representative ROGERS offers an approach that many of us have been talking about for some time. We need to stop these trash trucks at our bridges and make it as difficult as possible for them to do business in Michigan.

Ensuring our border agents do not use their scarce resources to facilitate the flow of trash from Canada is a good first step, but we need to do more. We need to enact the Bonior-Dingell-Doyle-Greenwood-Upton legislation, which would allow local communities to ban out-of-state and Canadian trash.

I commend Representative ROGERS for drawing attention to this critically important issue for Michigan's families and look forward to working with him to enact a permanent ban on imported trash.

TRIBUTE TO ANN MORGAN, U.S.
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGE-
MENT'S COLORADO STATE DI-
RECTOR

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Ann Morgan, the State Director of the Colorado Office of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management—the BLM. Ann will be leaving this position this week, after nearly five years of distinguished service in that demanding job.

Ann started as Colorado State Director of the BLM in October 1997. In our state, the BLM manages 8.4 million acres that include the full range of Colorado's diverse land forms, from forested areas, to river corridors, to red rock plateaus and open range expanses along the western slope. Managing these varied landscapes presents many challenges. Important balances must be struck between those that wish to use these lands for wildlife protection, open space, recreation, mineral development, grazing, timbering and oil and gas extraction.

As State Director, Ann had to work with the diverse interests to strike that balance. Her approach was to work for the kind of community-based partnerships that are so important for true multiple-use management. An example of this is the Colorado Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, where Ann was an active member. She also served as a co-chair of the Colorado Environmental Partnership, and has been an advisor to the University of Colorado Natural Resources Law Center. She also encouraged BLM to work across jurisdictional lines with the U.S. Forest Service and Colorado State Parks to better manage these lands and serve the public.

Ann recognized the value in conserving landscapes so that today's and future generations of visitors can enjoy the beauty and recreational potential of these public lands. To that end, she has helped build support for and